

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 CU-04 HEW-08 EB-11 SY-10 OPR-02 DRC-01 NIC-01

ACDA-19 CPR-02 A-01 /151 W
----- 013720

P R 181030Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 408

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY SIGNAPROE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

AMCONSUL MEDAN

AMCONSUL SURABAYA

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 JAKARTA 0759

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, JA, ID

SUBJ: RIOTING IN JAKARTA

1. INDONESIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ADAM MALIK CALLED
DIPLOMATIC COPRS TOGETHER AFTERNOON JANUARY 18 TO PRESENT
FOLLOWING EXPLANATION OF EVENTS OF LAST FEW DAYS.

2. "YOU MAY BE AWARE THAT FOR SOME TIME THE INDONESIAN
STUDENTS AND YOUTH MOVEMENT HAVE BEEN EXPRESSING, IN
VARIOUS WAYS, THEIR GRIEVANCES WITH REGARD TO CERTAIN
ECONOMIC CONDITIONS AND POLICIES, ESPECIALLY FOCUSING ON
JAPAN-INDONESIA ECONOMIC RELATIONS.

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"THESE EXPRESSIONS OF DISSATISFACTION MOUNTED IN

INTENSITY PRIOR TO, AND DURING, THE VISIT OF HIS EXCELLENCY MR. TANAKA, PRIME MINISTER OF JAPAN. IN ORDER TO RESPOND TO THESE STUDENT MANIFESTATIONS THE GOVERNMENT HAS TRIED TO INITIATE DIALOGUES AT VARIOUS LEVELS AND ON VARIOUS OCCASIONS.

"FINALLY ON THE 11TH OF JANUARY, 1974, HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT SOEHARTO HIMSELF CONSENTED TO MEET THE STUDENTS PERSONALLY IN ORDER TO PROVIDE FIRST-HAND AND HIGHEST LEVEL RESPONSE TO THE STUDENTS' DEMANDS.

"IT WAS THE GOVERNMENT'S HOPE THAT IN SO DOING, AND ALSO BY PROVIDING THEM AN OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE A DIALOGUE ALSO WITH PRIME MINISTER TANAKA, SCHEDULED FOR THE 16TH OF JANUARY, THE STUDENTS WOULD REFRAIN FROM EXPRESSING WHATEVER VIEWS AND GRIEVANCES THEY MAY HAVE THROUGH DEMONSTRATIONS ETC.

"UNFORTUNATELY, HOWEVER, THIS HOPE DID NOT COME TO PASS. ON THE 15TH OF JANUARY LAST, AT THE TIME WHEN OFFICIAL TALKS WERE BEING CONDUCTED AT MERDEKA PALACE BETWEEN PRESIDENT SOEHARTO AND PRIME MINISTER TANAKA, GROUPS OF STUDENTS AND YOUTH HAILING FROM VARIOUS UNIVERSITIES AND INSTITUTIONS MASSED AROUND THE VICINITY OF MERDEKA PALACE, WHILE OTHER GROUPS HELD A RALLY CENTERED AT THE TRISAKTI UNIVERSITY.

"EFFORTS BY THESE STUDENTS AND YOUTH TO BREAK THROUGH THE SECURITY CORDONS SET UP AROUND THE PALACE WERE PUSHED BACK WITH A MINIMUM OF FORCE AND A MAXIMUM OF PERSUASION. IT WAS AT THIS POINT, WHILE THE STUDENTS AND YOUTH WERE DISPERSING FROM THE VICINITY OF THE PALACE AND TRISAKTI UNIVERSITY WHERE THE RALLY WAS HELD, THAT THE DEPLORABLE INCIDENTS OCCURRED WHICH YOU HAVE BEEN WITNESSING OVER THE PAST THREE DAYS.

"THE LARGE MOVEMENT OF STUDENTS THROUGH CERTAIN AREAS OF THE CITY WERE JOINED BY ALL KINDS OF OTHER PEOPLE SUCH UNCLASSIFIED

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AS VAGRANTS, THE UNEMPLOYED, YOUTH GANGS AND OTHER IRRESPONSIBLE ELEMENTS OF THE SOCIETY.

"IN SUCH A SITUATION, MOB PSYCHOLOGY AND MOB ACTIONS WERE DIFFICULT TO PREVENT, RESULTING IN DEPLORABLE ACTIONS OF BURNING OF CARS, RANSACKING, LOOTING ETC.

"UP UNTIL THE 16TH OF JANUARY OUR SECURITY FORCES

WERE UNDER INSTRUCTION TO MEET THIS LAWLESSNESS WITH DETERMINATION BUT STILL WITH A MINIMUM OF FORCE BECAUSE IT WAS BEING REALISED THAT AMONG THE MASSES WERE ALSO MANY CHILDREN, TEEN-AGERS AND OTHER INNOCENT BYSTANDERS.

"IN FACE OF THE EXTENT OF THE DAMAGES TO PERSONAL AND PUBLIC PROPERTIES, AND IN VIEW OF THE ANGER TO THE GENERAL WELL-BEING AND SAFETY OF THE SOCIETY AT LARGE, HOWEVER, OUR SECURITY FORCES HAVE SINCE YESTERDAY BEEN ORDERED TO TAKE THE STERNEST POSSIBLE MEASURES, IF NECESSARY WITH THE APPLICATION OF ADEQUATE FORCE IN ORDER TO RESTORE ORDER AND TRANQUILITY.

"IT IS CLEAR THAT FROM THE BEGINNING OF A GENUINE STUDENT PROTEST MOVEMENT THE SITUATION DETERIORATED INTO ACTS OF WANTON VIOLENCE AND LAWLESSNESS BORDERING ON ANARCHY DUE TO THE FACT THAT THROUGH INFILTRATION AND MANIPULATION IRRESPONSIBLE ELEMENTS MADE THIS PROTEST MOVEMENT A VEHICLE FOR THEIR OWN DESIGNS. THE STUDENT MOVEMENTS AND THEIR LEADERS THEMSELVES HAVE ALMOST WITH ONE VOICE EXPRESSED THEIR CONDEMNATION OF THE ACTS OF DESTRUCTION THAT HAVE OCCURRED AND HAVE FIRMLY DISASSOCIATED THEMSELVES FROM THESE EXCESSES. SO HAVE OUR POLITICAL PARTIES AND OTHER SOCIAL FORCES.

"IT IS ALSO CLEAR THAT THIS SITUATION, WHICH CONSTITUTES A DIRECT THREAT TO THE STABILITY AND TRANQUILITY OF THE SOCIETY, MUST BE MET RESOLUTELY.

"FOR YOUR INFORMATION I CAN TELL YOU THAT THE EXTENT OF THE DAMAGE AND CASUALTIES SO FAR HAVE BEEN AS FOLLOWS:

-- 11 PERSONS HAVE DIED AND APPROXIMATELY 40 PERSONS
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BEEN WOUNDED, OF WHICH THE GREAT MAJORITY THROUGH CAUSES OTHER THAN BY SHOOTING BY THE SECURITY FORCES;

-- APPROXIMATELY 250 VEHICLES BURNED OR OTHERWISE DESTROYED, MOSTLY OF JAPANESE MAKE;

-- SEVERAL SHOPPING CENTRES AND INDIVIDUAL STORES DESTROYED, BURNED OR LOOTED, AMONG OTHERS PASAR SENEN SHOPPING CENTRE, PASAR GLOKOK COMPLEX, VARIOUS SHOPS ALONG GAJAH MADA, HAYAM WURUK AND JALAN BLORA, AS WELL AS SEVERAL OFFICE BUILDINGS SUCH AS TOYOTA-ASTRA.

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ACDA-19 CPR-02 A-01 /151 W

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P R 181030Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 409

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

AMCONSUL MEDAN

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UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 JAKARTA 0759

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

"NO DAMAGE HAS BEEN INFLICTED ON ANY PREMISES OF FOREIGN DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR MISSIONS EXCEPT FOR SOME SLIGHT DAMAGE TO THE JAPANESE CHANCERY, WHERE I INTERVENED PERSONALLY TO PREVENT FURTHER DAMAGE.

"I WANT TO ASSURE YOU THAT AS OF YESTERDAY THE SITUATION IS ALREADY WELL IN HAND. OUR SECURITY FORCES ARE IN FULL CONTROL OF THE SITUATION IN THE ENTIRE METROPOLITAN AREA OF JAKARTA. NO DISTURBANCES OF WHATEVER SORT HAVE OCCURRED OR WILL OCCUR IN THE OTHER CITIES. I AM AUTHORIZED TO TELL YOU THAT THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT GUARANTEES THE PERSONAL SAFETY OF ALL MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC AND

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CONSULAR CORPS AS WELL AS OF ALL FOREIGNERS RESIDING IN INDONESIA. LIKEWISE I CAN ASSURE YOU THE SAFETY OF ALL LAWFUL FOREIGN PROPERTIES AND FOREIGN INVESTMENTS OPERATING IN INDONESIA. I CAN ALSO INFORM YOU THAT THERE IS NO SCARCITY WHATEVER IN STOCKS OF FOOD AND OTHER BASIC NECESSITIES OF LIFE, AND AS YOU MAY HAVE NOTED THE MACHINERIES OF DISTRIBUTION, TRANSPORTATION ETC. HAVE RESUMED THEIR NORMAL OPERATION.

"I AM, OF COURSE, AWARE THAT THE SITUATION OF THE PAST FEW DAYS HAVE CAUSED YOU GREAT INCONVENIENCES. INSTANCES HAVE BEEN REPORTED TO ME OF GROUPS OF PEOPLE ENTERING EMBASSY COMPOUNDS DEMANDING IN SOME INSTANCES NATIONAL FLAG TO BE LOWERED HALF-MAST. ON THIS OCCASION I WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND TO ALL OF YOU THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT'S SINCERE REGRET AT THESE INCIDENTS AND INCONVENIENCES, CAUSED BY A SITUATION OF FORCE-MAJEUR WHICH OUR GOVERNMENT IS ENDEAVOURING TO OVERCOME AS SPEEDILY AS POSSIBLE.

"I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO REQUEST YOUR KIND UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION FOR ANY FURTHER INCONVENIENCES THAT YOU MAY STILL HAVE TO COPE WITH IN THE FEW MORE DAYS TO COME: THE IMPOSITION OF CURFEW HOURS, HOWEVER INCONVENIENT TO THE PUBLIC AT LARGE, IS A NECESSARY SECURITY MEASURE WHICH HOPEFULLY WILL SPEED UP A RETURN TO COMPLETE NORMALCY.

"AT THIS MOMENT, A FEW ARRESTS ARE BEING MADE AS A PREVENTIVE SECURITY MEASURE AND FOR INTERROGATORY PURPOSES ONLY, AND I AM ASKING YOU TO VIEW THEM SOLELY WITHIN THAT CONTEXT.

"I AM ALSO AWARE OF VARIOUS RUMOURS THAT HAVE BEEN CIRCULATING HERE AMONG THE FOREIGN COMMUNITY IN JKARTA, OF AN ALLEGED PLOT FOR A COUP D'ETAT, OF ALLEGED CONFLICT BETWEEN CERTAIN PERSONALITIES OR BETWEEN THE SO-CALLED TECHNOCRATS AND THE PERSONAL ASSISTANTS OF THE PRESIDENT ETC.

"I WANT TO GIVE EMPHATIC ASSURANCE TO YOU THAT THESE RUMOURS HAVE NO FACTUAL GROUNDS. THE PEOPLE AND THE

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ARMED FORCES, THE STUDENTS THE POLITICAL PARTIES, AND OTHER SOCIAL FORCES ARE FULLY BEHIND THE GOVERNMENT OF PRESIDENT SOEHARTO IN THEIR COMMON RESOLVE TO SURMOUNT

ALL PROBLEMS, WHETHER REAL OR PERCEIVED, THAT HAVE LED TO THE DISTURBANCES OF THE PAST FEW DAYS. ANY LEGITIMATE DEMAND FOR AN IMPROVEMENT OF EXISTING CONDITIONS, WHICH AFTER ALL ARE BUT A LOGICAL PART OF THE SITUATION IN A DEVELOPING COUNTRY LIKE INDONESIA, WILL CERTAINLY MEET THE SERIOUS AND SINCERE RESPONSE OF THE GOVERNMENT.

"THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO A FURTHER PERIOD OF CONSTRUCTIVE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATION IN THE YEARS TO COME, IN COOPERATION WITH ALL NATIONS WILLING TO ASSIST US IN OUR ENDEAVOUR.

"IT IS MY GENUINE HOPE THAT ALL OF YOU, REPRESENTATIVES OF FRIENDLY COUNTRIES, MAY BE ABLE TO CONVEY THIS SENTIMENT AS WELL AS THE FACTUAL ACCOUNT AND ASSESSMENT OF OUR PRESENT SITUATION TO YOUR RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS."

"I THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION. AND NOW, IF ANY OF YOU MAY STILL HAVE SOME QUESTIONS, I SHALL BE MOST WILLING TO ANSWER THEM."

3. POINTING OUT THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO PROTECTION FOR DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS, SOME OF WHICH HAD BEEN BESET BY GROUPS OF DEMONSTRATORS AS LARGE AS 500, AUSTRIAN AMBASSADOR ASKED WHETHER DURING FUTURE CRISIS SUCH PROTECTION COULD NOT BE PROVIDED. HE MENTIONED THAT ON THREE OCCASIONS INCLUDING LATEST ONE, HE HAD ASKED FOR POLICE ATTENTION AND HAD RECEIVED NO RESPONSE. MALIK AGREED AND SAID HE HAS INTENTION TO DISCUSS THIS WITH ARMY AND POLICE.

4. THERE WERE SEVERAL QUESTIONS ABOUT CURFEW AND ABOUT GETTING INFORMATION ABOUT IT WHICH MALIK HANDLED IN HIS GOOD HUMORED WAY. HE IMPLIED THAT CURFEW WOULD PROBABLY BE LIFTED NEXT WEEK. HE SAID IT HAD ALREADY BEEN SHORTENED AT HIS SUGGESTION.

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6. POINTING OUT REQUIREMENT FOR GETTING REPORTS OUT TO OUR GOVERNMENTS, AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR INQUIRED ABOUT PASSES FOR CONTINUING EMBASSY BUSINESS DURING SUCH CRISIS. MALIK SAID HE HAD ALREADY ASKED MILITARY TO PROVIDE SUCH PASSES.
GALBRAITH

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